

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application are respectfully requested in view of the present Amendment and the following Remarks. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,298,128 to Ramey, et al. (“Ramey”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,396,906 to Kaplan. Claims 7 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ramey in view of Kaplan and U.S. Pat Appl. No. US 2002/0138296 to Holmes, Jr. Claims 1, 9, and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-6 and 8-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramey in view of Baker (U.S. Pat. No. 6,327,478). After careful review of the claims and references, it is submitted that the claims are in allowable form and therefore, allowance is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that voice information is converted to text data for post-processing research, and subsequently searched based upon a search term received after the contact for use in post-processing research (see e.g., p. 14, para. 0050). Independent claims 9 and 13 are similarly limited.

Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20 have been rejected as obvious over Ramey and Kaplan. Ramey describes an answering machine for determining a return phone number or address for responding to a message based upon a caller ID or the like obtained from the initial communication. Thus, Ramey simply matches a caller ID or e-mail address to a corresponding stored telephone number, name or address in a different medium to enable a return message in that different medium. The Office Action asserts that Ramey teaches converting voice contact information to text data in digitized form citing Col. 4, lines 59-64 and Col. 5, lines 15-22, and 53-64). However, Ramey in Col. 4, lines 59-64 and Col. 5 does not describe converting to text

or packetizing as claimed. Rather, Col. 4, lines 59-64 merely describe digitizing a message left by the caller, and Col. 5, lines 15-22 and 53-64 merely describe storage of the telephone number and names, and caller ID's in a correspondent database. There is no disclosure of conversion to text using speech recognition or packetizing and no searching of the message in post-processing to find key words.

The Office Action also asserts that storing the contact data and receiving a search term from a searcher is disclosed by Ramey at Col. 4 and Col. 5, and that Ramey at Col. 5 teaches searching a telephone number in a database and that the caller is the searcher supplying the search term. However, Ramey does not store packetized text data as claimed. Further, Ramey at Col. 5, lines 53-64 merely describes automatically matching a caller ID with names during a contact, no search term is supplied by a searcher nor is it subsequent to the contact for the post-processing research as claimed. The original caller is clearly not the searcher, the search in Ramey is conducted by the system to identify an address, etc. based upon a caller ID automatically extracted from the telephone system without the caller participation or knowledge. The caller also does not provide anything subsequent to the contact or for post-processing research, and the caller ID is not a keyword and not received from a searcher conducting a post-contact search. Further, the data base searched in Ramey is not a repository of text contact data of voice information of post voice contacts. It is a correspondent database containing caller or e-mail ID information and related attributes not stored voice information in text form from past contacts (Col. 5, lines 23-42).

The Office Action also asserts that searching is disclosed by Ramey at Col. 5, lines 53-64, and Fig. 3. However, Col. 5 merely describes searching for a match to a caller ID in the correspondent database of caller ID information but not searching a data repository of packetized

voice information converted to text data. Thus, Ramey does not teach numerous elements of the independent claims 1, 9, and 13. Kaplan, which concerns a telephone answering system, also fails to disclose the above features.

The Office Action concedes that Ramey does not teach converting the voice information to text but that Kaplan does at Col. 2, lines 15-22, 41-44, and Col. 3, lines 39-42. However, Kaplan merely describes an answering system that automatically dials a specific telephone number left by a caller. Col. 2, lines 15-22 and 41-44 merely describe digitizing a spoken number not conversion to text, to permit call-back, it is not converted to text to permit post-contact research searching for key words. Further, Ramey, which functions as an answering machine, has no use for converting the voice content of a contact to text because it does not need to search a repository of past contact information; and does not even remotely suggest doing so. Thus, there is no reason to combine Kaplan with Ramey, and if done does not produce the claimed system. The Office Action also rejected claims 1-18 as obvious over Ramey and Baker, asserting that Baker also teaches converting voice information into text using speech recognition at Col. 2, lines 54-67 and Col. 3, lines 50-62. However, Baker at Col. 2, lines 54-67 merely identifies a speech recognition system in node 23, and at Col. 3, lines 50-62 describes asking a calling party for a telephone number, and use of speech to text to convert the number. However, Baker does not suggest using speech to text to convert the voice contact to text and storing it in a post-contact repository for key word searching. Baker further does not disclose the other claimed features missing from Ramey as discussed above.

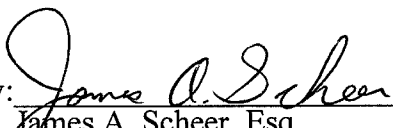
Together, the combination of Ramey and Kaplan fail to provide any teaching or suggestion of converting voice to text and packetizing the voice information of the contact, a search term supplied by a searcher subsequent to the contact for post-processing research, or

searching the data repository of textized voice data of past contacts. Similarly, Baker and Holmes, Jr. fail to provide any teaching or suggestion of the above described features. Since the combination fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements, the independent claims 1, 9, and 13 are believed to be distinguishable over all the cited references. Further, dependent claims 2-8, 10-12, and 14-20 have believed to be allowable because they depend from allowable base claims 1, 9, and 13.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, extension of time fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
James A. Scheer, Esq.
Registration No. 29,434

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WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500